

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 10547 01 OF 02 140732Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /088 W

----- 005142

R 140600Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2840

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 10547

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, BG

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH RELATIONS

SUMMARY

THE GOP SEEMS RELATIVELY RELAXED ABOUT THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN DACCA. IT CONTINUES TO WATCH CAREFULLY FOR EVIDENCE OF INDIAN INTENTIONS, BUT SEEMS PERSUADED TO ITS RELIEF THAT GOI INTERVENTION IN BANGLADESH IS NOT IN THE IMMEDIATE OFFING. DEVELOPMENTS IN BD HAVE REINFORCED EARLIER GOP DETERMINATION NOT TO BE TOO FORWARD IN MOVING TOWARD CLOSER RELATIONS WITH DACCA.

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 10547 01 OF 02 140732Z

THE GOP HAS BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE CHINESE AND

THE SAUDIS ON BD DEVELOPMENTS. AN MFA OFFICIAL STATES THAT THE CHINESE ARE MEASURING THE EVENTS IN DACCA IN TERMS OF WHAT THEY MEAN FOR THE SOVIETS. OFFICIALS HERE STATE THAT THEY SEE NO REASON WHY BD EVENTS SHOULD HAVE ANY EFFECT ON PROGRESS TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF INDO-PAK RELATIONS.  
END SUMMARY

1. ALTHOUGH PAK OFFICIALS RECOGNIZE THE CONTINUING FRAGILITY OF THE BANGLADESH POLITICAL SITUATION AND ARE QUICK TO CONFESS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE COURSE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS THERE ARE LIKELY TO TAKE, TO GOP SEEMS RELATIVELY RELAXED ABOUT THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN DACCA. IT IS CLEARLY PLEASED AT THE OVERTHROW OF KHALID MOSHARRAF: THE CONVENTIONAL SUBCONTINENTAL WISDOM THAT HE WAS PRO-INDIAN AND THAT HIS ACCESSION TO POWER REPRESENTED A RETURN TO "MUJIBISM" IS AS STOUTLY SUBSCRIBED TO IN ISLAMABAD AS IT SEEMS TO BE IN DELHI AND DACCA. WHILE THE PAKS ADMIT THEY ARE LARGELY IN THE DARK ABOUT THE POTENTIAL POLITICAL PROWESS OF BD PRESIDENT SAYEM AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ZIAUR RAHMAN -- THEY CLAIM TO HAVE HIGH REGARD FOR THE FORMER AS A JUDGE AND FOR THE LATTER AS A PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER -- THEY CONSIDER BOTH PREFERRABLE TO MOSHARRAF. THEY ARE UNWILLING TO PREDICT HOW LONG EITHER WILL REMAIN IN POWER, HOWEVER. DEPENDENT ON SECOND HAND INFORMATION IN THE ABSENCE OF A MISSION IN DACCA (OR NEW DELHI) AND OFTEN SEEMINGLY POORLY INFORMED ABOUT LESS WELL-KNOWN ASPECTS OF POST - 1971 POLITICS IN BANGLADESH, MFA OFFICIALS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN MORE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING INFORMATION FROM US THAN IN OFFERING FORECASTS OF THEIR OWN.

2. THE GOP CONTINUES TO WATCH CAREFULLY FOR EVIDENCE OF INDIAN INTENTIONS. IT NOW SEEMS PERSUADED TO ITS RELIEF THAT WHAT FOR IT WOULD BE THE POLITICAL NIGHTMARE OF INDIAN INTERVENTION IS NOT IN THE IMMEDIATE OFFING. THERE APPEARS TO BE GENERAL ACCEPTANCE IN MFA THAT AN OVERT GOI MOVE WILL TAKE PLACE ONLY IF IT IS PRECEDED BY COMMUNAL TROUBLE AND A FLIGHT OF HINDU REFUGEES  
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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 10547 01 OF 02 140732Z

ACROSS THE INDIAN FRONTIER. AT THE SAME TIME, MFA OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO EXPRESS DEEP SUSPICION OF INDIAN MOTIVES IN BD AND DO NOT RULE OUT AN INDIAN MOVE THERE IN THE LONGER RUN. THEY MAINTAIN THAT IF THE GOI CHOOSES TO DO SO IT CAN INDUCE A HINDU EXODUS TO SERVE AS A PRETEXT FOR INTERVENTION. THE MFA CONCLUSION THAT THE GOI WILL NOT AT LEAST FOR NOW RESORT TO THIS "WHISTLING IN THE HINDUS" (MINISTER OF STATE AZIZ AHMED'S PHRASE)

IS BOLSTERED BY ITS ASSESSMENT OF MRS. GHANDI'S DOMESTIC  
POLITICAL POSITION AND ITS BELIEF THAT THE INDIANS ARE  
NOW AWARE THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT PRO-  
INDIAN GROUP IN THE BD POWER STRUCTURE THEY CAN COME  
TO DACCA ONLY AS CONQUERORS.

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 10547 02 OF 02 140728Z

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R 140600Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2841

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USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 10547

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

3. WHATEVER OTHER IMPACT THE BD DEVELOPMENTS OF THE  
PAST TEN DAYS HAVE HAD HERE, THEY HAVE SERVED TO REIN-  
FORCE EARLIER GOP DETERMINATION NOT TO BE TOO FORWARD  
IN MOVING TOWARD CLOSER RELATIONS WITH DACCA AND TO  
FOLLOW THE RESTRAINED AND REALISTIC APPROACH IT ADOPTED  
AFTER THE FALL OF MUJIB (ISLAMABAD 7928). AZIZ AHMED

HAS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOP HAS NOT HAD ANY DIRECT CONTACT WITH TTY NEW BD AUTHORITIES, IT HAS PASSED WORD THAT A GO-SLOW APPROACH IS BEST AT THIS TIME. IT CONTINUES TO WAIT TO SEE IF THE NEW BDG CONFIRMS THE EARLIER APPOINTMENT OF ITS DESIGNATED (AND AGREED TO) AMBASSADOR TO ISLAMABAD, BUT IS NOT URGING CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 10547 02 OF 02 140728Z

THAT THIS BE DONE PROMPTLY. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE IS NO RUSH ON THE GOP'S PART TO NAME ITS AMBASSADOR TO DACCA. (AT HIS NOVEMBER 11 PRESS CONFERENCE, PM BHUTTO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE EXCHANGE OF ENVOYS WOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR; ISLAMABAD 10494.)

4. THE GOP HAS BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH US ON BD DEVELOPMENTS AND HAS WELCOMED OUR QUIET CALLS FOR RESTRAINT. IT HAS ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH OF COURSE WITH THE CHINESE AND SAUDIS, CONTINUING THE PRACTICE OF AUGUST WHEN BOTH FOLLOWED THE GOP'S LEAD IN RECOGNIZING THE NEW DACCA GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO MFA SOUTH ASIA DIRECTOR GENERAL HAYAT MEHDI, THE CHINESE TOLD THE PAK CHARGE IN PEKING EARLY THIS WEEK THAT THEY VIEWED ZIAUR RAHMAN'S ASSUMPTION OF POWER WITH SATISFACTION BUT WERE NOT SURE WHETHER HE WOULD REMAIN IN POWER. MEHDI SAID THE CHINESE CONSIDERED INTERVENTION BY INDIA AS POSSIBLE BUT NOTED THAT THEY HAD ADDED "IN THEIR WAY" THAT THEY WERE OF THE VIEW THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD FURTHER EXPOSE INDIA'S EXPANSIONIST DESIGNS AND HELP UNITE THE PEOPLE OF BD AGAINST HER. MFA BD DIRECTOR AZMAT HASSAN STATED THAT SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE HERE INDICATE THAT PEKING IS MEASURING DEVELOPMENTS IN BD IN TERMS OF WHAT THEY MEAN FOR THE SOVIETS AND SEE BD AS ANOTHER AREA OF POTENTIAL TENSION BETWEEN THE PRC AND THE USSR. THE OFFICIAL STATED THAT THE SAUDIS ATTITUDE IS THAT IF THERE IS ANY MOVEMENT TOWARD A MORE SECULAR, "MUJIBIST" STATE THEY WILL NOT SEND AN AMBASSADOR TO DACCA AND WILL NOT OFFER ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WHATEVER. HE ADDED THAT THE SAG IS NOW WAITING TO SEE WHAT HEPPENS, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE SAUDIS WERE LIKELY TO FOLLOW THE GOP'S LEAD IN THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN DACCA.

5. MFA OFFICIALS STATE THAT THEY SEE NO REASON AT PRESENT WHY THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BANGLADESH SHOULD HAVE ANY EFFECT ON PROGRESS TOWARDS NORMALIZATION OF INDO-PAK RELATIONS. THEY ADD THE OBVIOUS: INDIAN INTERVENTION IN BD WOULD NOT ONLY STOP NORMALIZATION EFFORTS IN THEIR TRACKS BUT MIGHT WELL DISRUPT SOME OF WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED IN IMPLEMENTATION THE SIMLA  
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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 10547 02 OF 02 140728Z

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH RELATIONS SUMMARY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PK, BG, IN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006